

ascertain the sentiment now prevailing as to the extension of the Navajo Reservation by extending a line due west from the west boundary line of the Moqui Reservation to the southeast corner of the Grand Canyon Reserve, thence north on the eastern boundary of the said forest reserve to its northeast corner, thence west along said boundary to the Colorado River, thence up that stream to the Indian reservation.

I met a number of business men, including several stockmen, of Coconino County while in Flagstaff, and found them all very much opposed to an extension of the reservation by having the southern boundary above proposed, as such a line would include what is known as the Coconino Basin, which is regarded as the best winter range for stock in Coconino County. The Coconino Basin is appropriated by Coconino County stockmen as winter range for stock that is held in the mountains during the summer seasons, which mountains, owing to deep snow in the higher altitudes, have to be abandoned in winter and herds ranged in the lower country.

After ascertaining the sentiment of the citizens of Flagstaff and its vicinity regarding said extension of the Navajo Reservation I proceeded to Tuba City, a distance of 100 miles by the road I traveled, and was two days making the trip by team, which route was by way of Tanner Crossing of the Little Colorado, Willow Springs, and Moen Ava. I was twenty-two days at Tuba City and vicinity, during which time I traveled over considerable of the country lying southwest and west of the Moqui Reservation; also made a trip from Tuba City to Oraibi Mesa, by way of the Togas Jay Wash, Blue Canyon, and Denebato Wash, a distance of 60 miles, about one-third of which route was outside the reservation, which, with my return trip of 90 miles from Tuba City to Flagstaff, by a different route from that I traveled when going to Tuba City, I was thus enabled to see considerable of the reservation and character of the country bordering upon it, which being chiefly a light sandy soil, subject to drifting with every high wind that blows, did not impress me favorably, and twenty days out of the twenty-two that I was at Tuba City and vicinity being almost one continuous sand storm, my earlier impression of the country was not changed. The present season has been unusually dry, there having been no rains of any consequence in the Little Colorado country for several months past, the result of which is that water is very scarce and grazing exceedingly poor throughout the entire tract of country that I traveled over. Grass is at all times very scarce in this sandy desert, and the long drought has dried up the roots to such an extent that a green blade is rarely seen, and were it not for the grease wood, sagebrush, and other shrubs that cattle and sheep can subsist upon there would be great loss of stock from the barrenness of the ranges, caused by the protracted drought.

There is no question but that the present reservation of the Navajo and Moqui Indians is insufficient for the Navajo herds (the Moqui Reservation, all except what is cultivated by the Moquis, being appropriated by the Navajoes for grazing their flocks), in consequence of which a large number of the Navajoes are frequently off their reservation on the public domain, ranging their herds as far south as the Santa Fe Railroad, in portions of Coconino and Navajo counties, which occasion contentions over ranges, as the untaxed herds of the Indians eat off the grass and exhaust the water supply, to the detriment of the white stockmen, whose herds are taxed by the respective counties in which they reside.

The Navajo Indians are entitled to commendation for their progressiveness in the sheep industry, and as they can not maintain sufficient herds upon the sandy and impoverished ranges within their present boundaries to support themselves, I would strongly recommend enlarging their reservation, so that they would not be obliged to range their untaxed herds in organized counties on the public domain, and by which they could be more reasonably required to remain within their reservation boundaries, which would be much better for the Indians and assure more friendly relations between them and the neighboring whites than is possible under present conditions.

The Navajoes have vast herds of ponies that have no commercial value (some few Indians owning over 500 head each), many of them being of little or no use to the owners, and if they could be prevailed upon or some inducement held out to them to reduce their pony herds it would be beneficial to them in many ways, and especially in the saving of grass consumed by these worthless animals, and would insure better pasturage for their cattle, sheep, and goats, and their interests would be greatly advanced thereby.

I endeavored to ascertain the number of Indians off of the reservation, scattered over the country, between the western boundary line of the reservation and the Colorado River, which is a territory of about 40 to 50 miles in extent, but it was impossible to obtain any definite information, some Indians placing the number at 1,500 to 2,000, and others from 2,000 to 3,000, while Mr. Elwin E. Rogers, Navajo